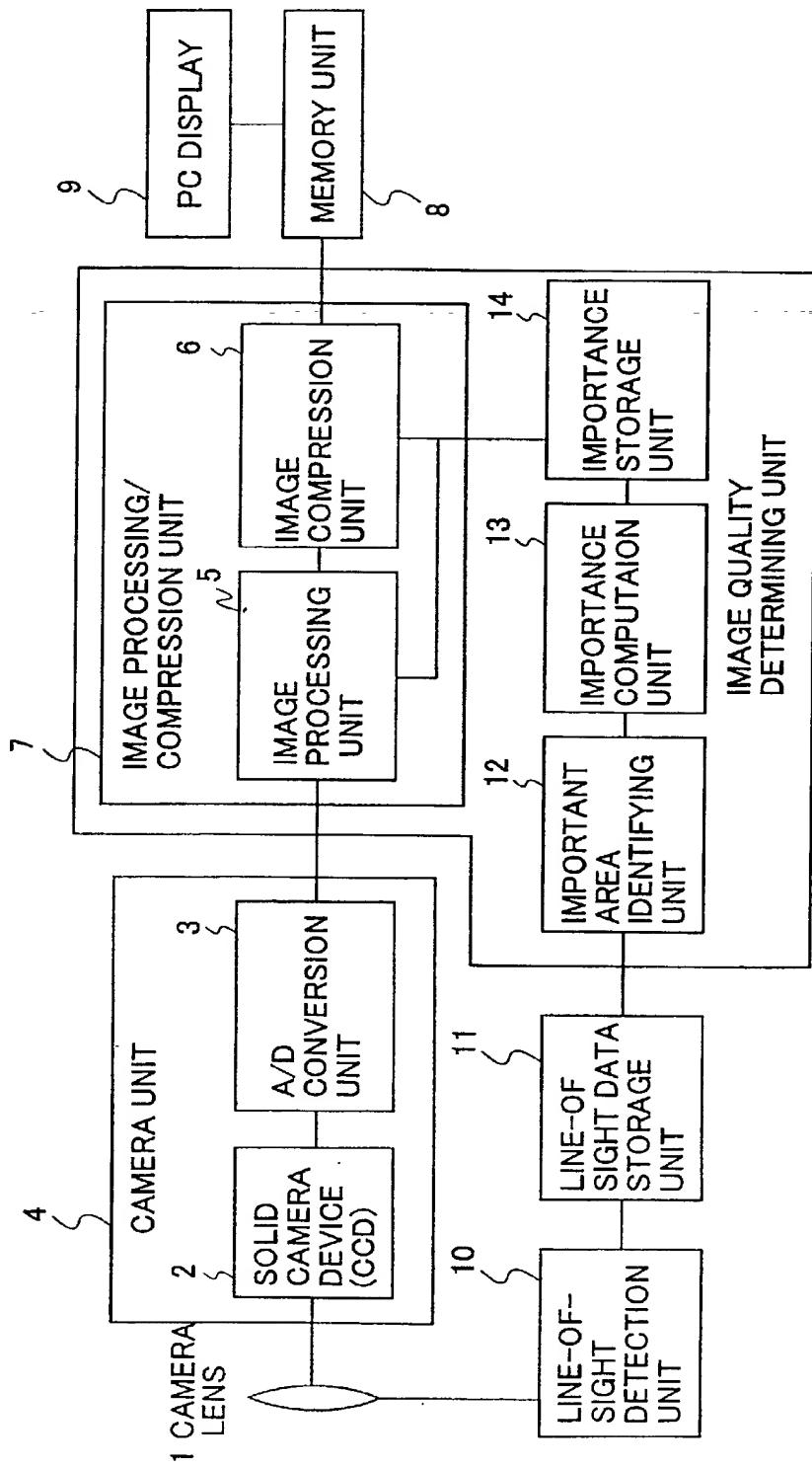


FIG. 1
BLOCK DIAGRAM SHOWING A CONFIGURATION OF AN
EMBODIMENT OF A DIGITAL CAMERA ACCORDING TO THE
PRESENT INVENTION.



SERIAL NO: 09/726,559
INV: Yuki Matsushima
DOCKET # 200321US-2
SHEET 2 OF 15

FIG.2

DRAWING SHOWING AN EMBODIMENT OF A CONFIGURATION OF A LINE-OF-SIGHT DETECTION UNIT.

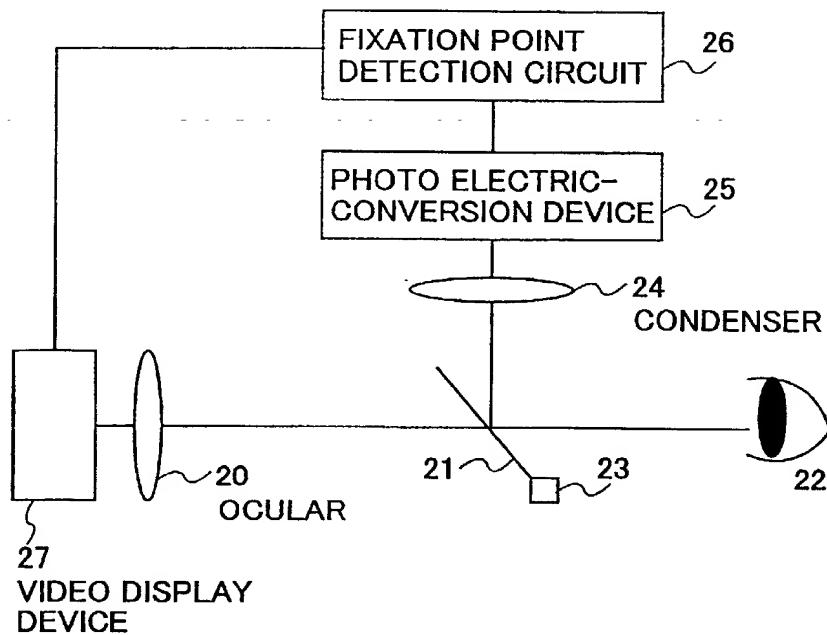
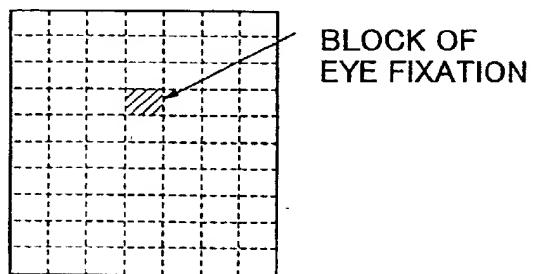


FIG.3

DRAWING SHOWING THE WAY A DISPLAY SCREEN IS DIVIDED INTO A PLURALITY OF BLOCKS IN ORDER TO DETECT A POINT OF FIXATION BY THE UNIT OF ONE BLOCK.



SERIAL NO: 09/726,559
INV: Yuki Matsushima
DOCKET # 200321US-2
SHEET 3 OF 15

FIG.4

DRAWING SHOWING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PIXEL OF INTEREST AND POSITIONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AREA OF IMPORTANCE AND THE PIXEL OF INTEREST.

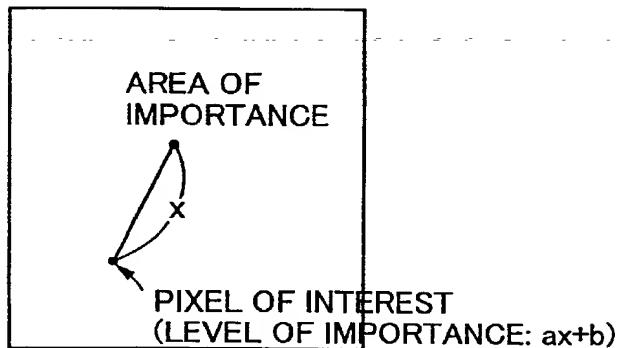
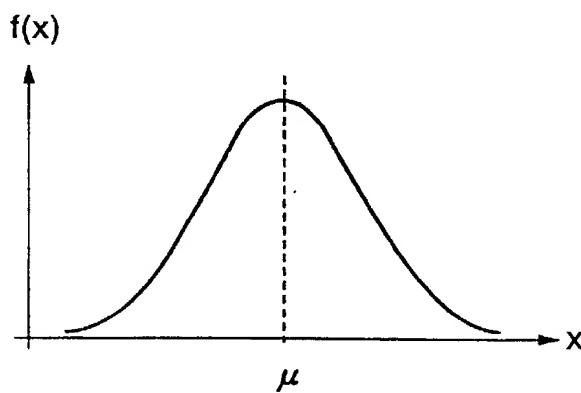


FIG.5

DRAWING SHOWING A GAUSSIAN DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION THAT DEFINES LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE.



SERIAL NO: 09/726,559
INV: Yuki Matsushima
DOCKET # 200321US-2
SHEET 4 OF 15

FIG.6

DRAWING SHOWING THE WAY TWO AREAS OF IMPORTANCE ARE SPECIFIED IN AN IMAGE.

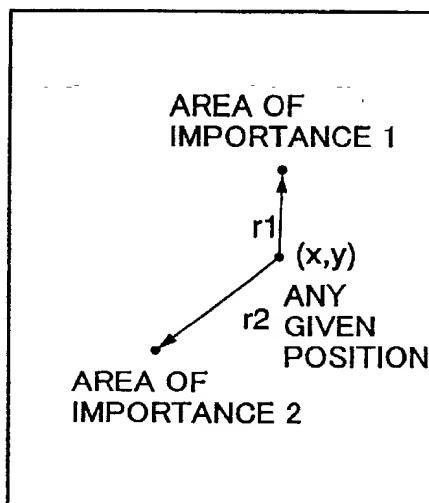


FIG.7

DRAWING SHOWING THE IMPORTANCE OF POSITION(x, y) IN THE IMAGE WITH RESPECT TO THE FIRST AREA OF IMPORTANCE AND THE SECOND AREA OF IMPORTANCE.

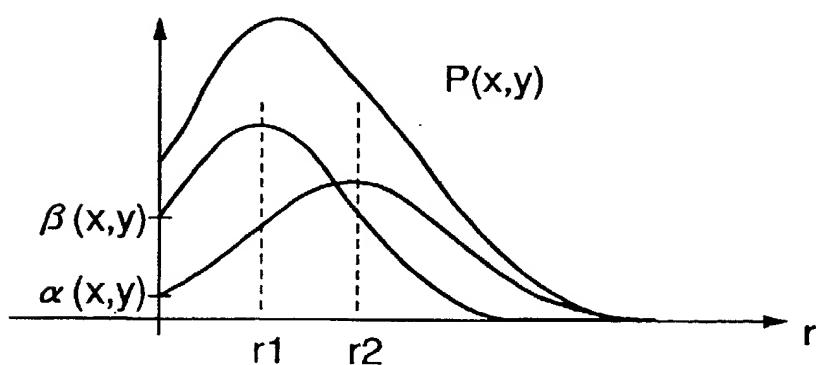
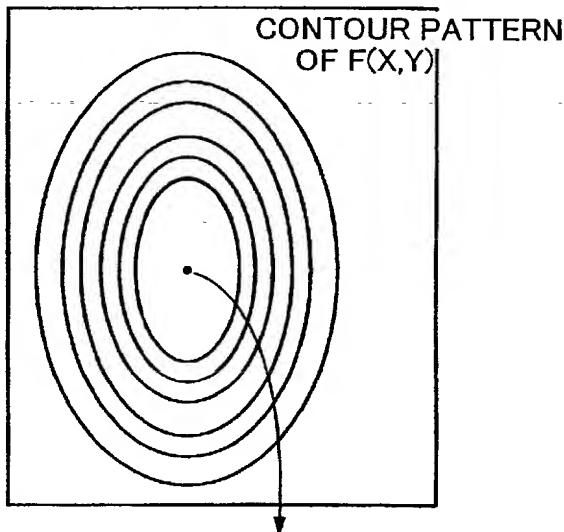


FIG.8

DRAWING SHOWING A CONTOUR PATTERN OF IMPORTANCE IN A CASE WHERE THE AREA OF IMPORTANCE IS DEFINED AS A SMALL ELLIPSE REGION OF THE IMAGE.



CENTER OF AREA OF IMPORTANCE
i.e., FIXATION POINT OF USER EYE

FIG.9

DRAWING SHOWING AN EXAMPLE OF IMPORTANCE THAT IS QUANTIZED INTO FIVE LEVELS.

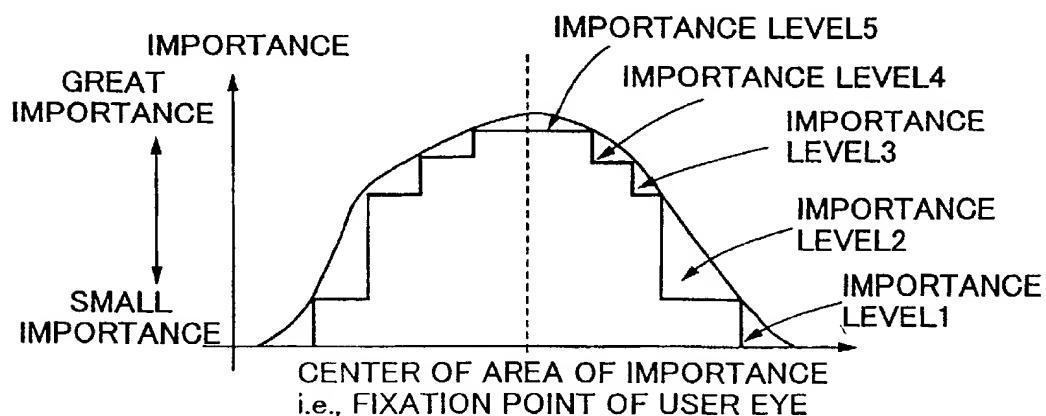
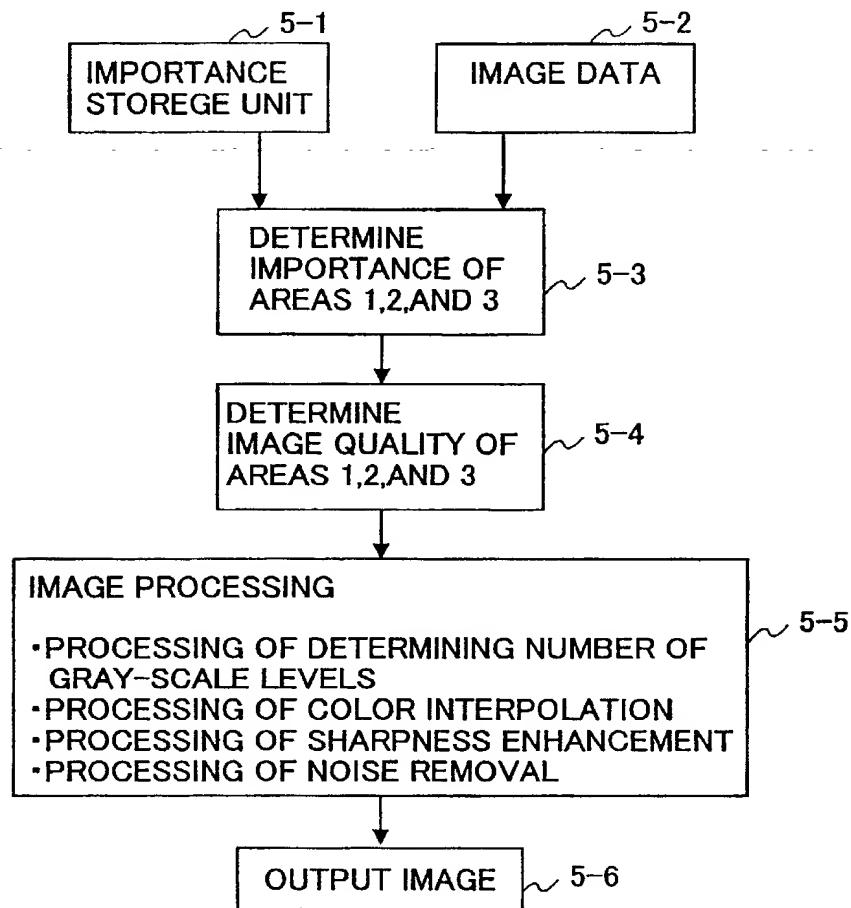


FIG.10

BLOCK DIAGRAM SHOWING A FUNCTIONAL BLOCK CONFIGURATION OF AN IMAGE PROCESSING UNIT.

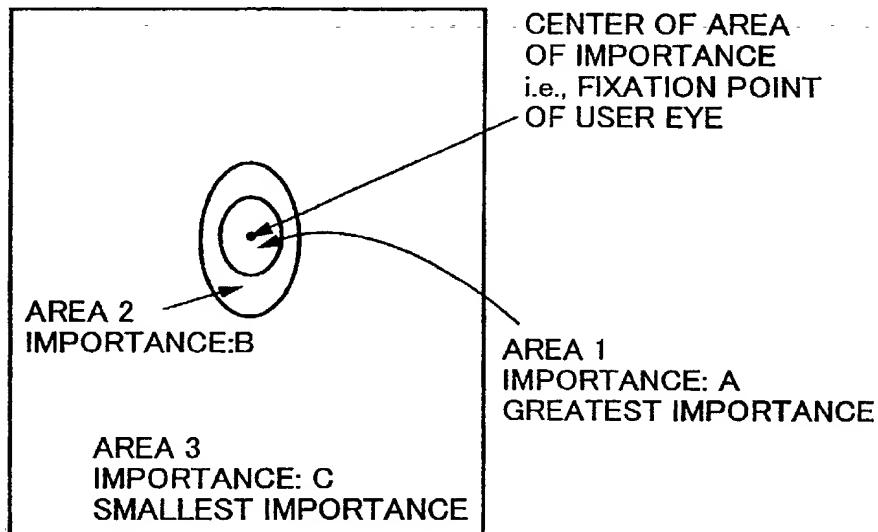


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SERIAL NO: 09/726,559
INV: Yuki Matsushima
DOCKET # 200321US-2
SHEET 7 OF 15

FIG.11

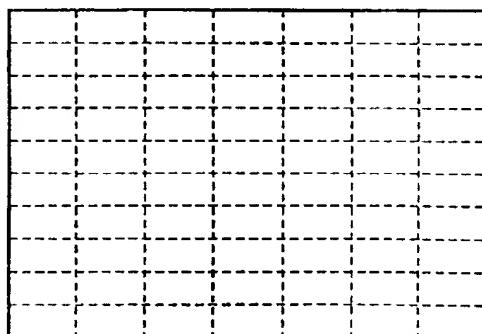
DRAWING SHOWING QUANTIZED IMPORTANCE LEVELS THAT ARE ASSIGNED TO RESPECTIVE AREAS OF AN IMAGE WITH REFERENCE TO AN EXAMPLE IN WHICH THE AREA OF IMPORTANCE IS AN ELLIPSE SHAPE.



09/726,559-032201

FIG.12

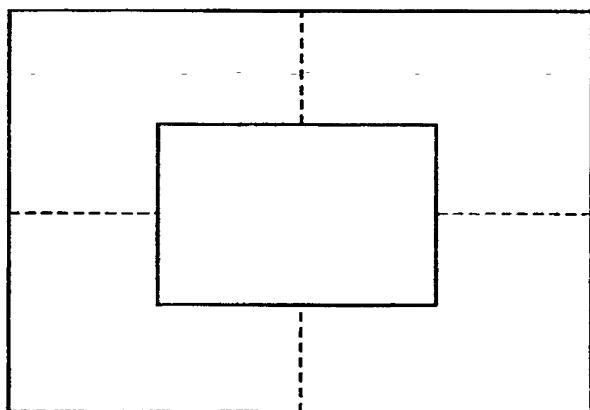
EXAMPLE OF BLOCKS INTO WHICH AN IMAGE IS DIVIDED HORIZONTALLY AND VERTICALLY.



SERIAL NO: 09/726,559
INV: Yuki Matsushima
DOCKET # 200321US-2
SHEET 8 OF 15

FIG.13

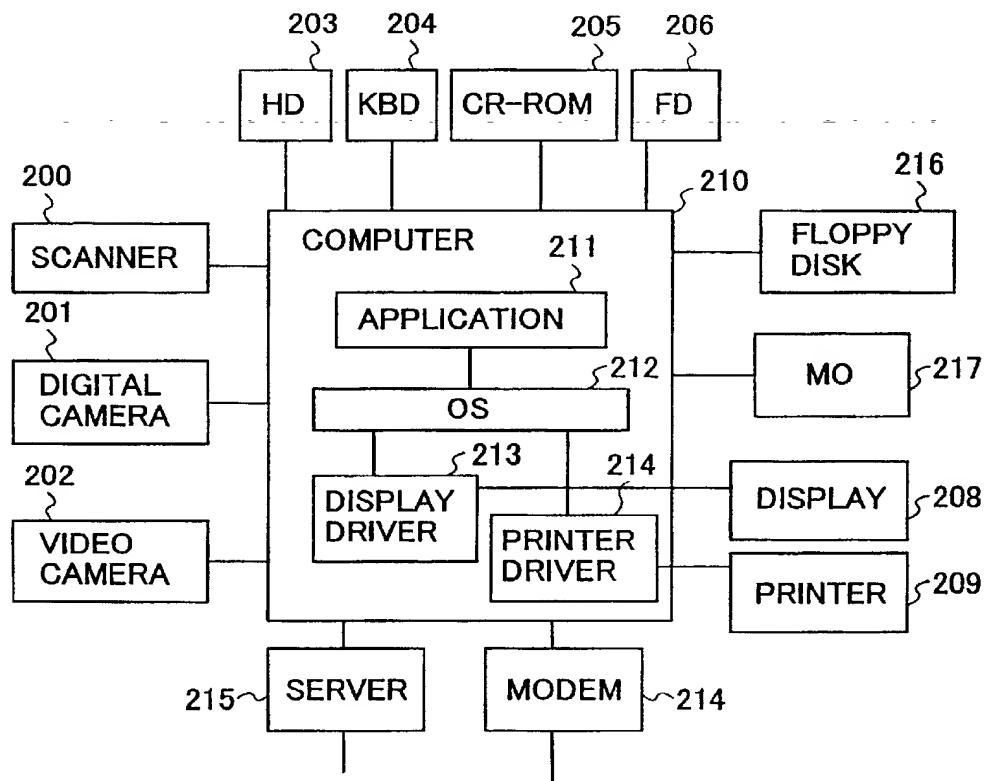
EXAMPLE OF BLOCKS HAVING DIFFERENT SHAPES INTO WHICH AN IMAGE IS DIVIDED.



SERIAL NO: 09/726,559
INV: Yuki Matsushima
DOCKET # 200321US-2
SHEET 9 OF 15

FIG.14

BLOCK DIAGRAM SHOWING AN EXAMPLE OF A HARDWARE CONFIGURATION INCLUDING AN IMAGE OUTPUT APPARATUS.



SERIAL NO: 09/726,559
INV: Yuki Matsushima
DOCKET # 200321US-2
SHEET 10 OF 15

FIG.15

FLOWCHART SHOWING A FIRST EMBODIMENT OF A PROCESS OF MAKING IMAGE QUALITY VARY DEPENDING ON LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE.

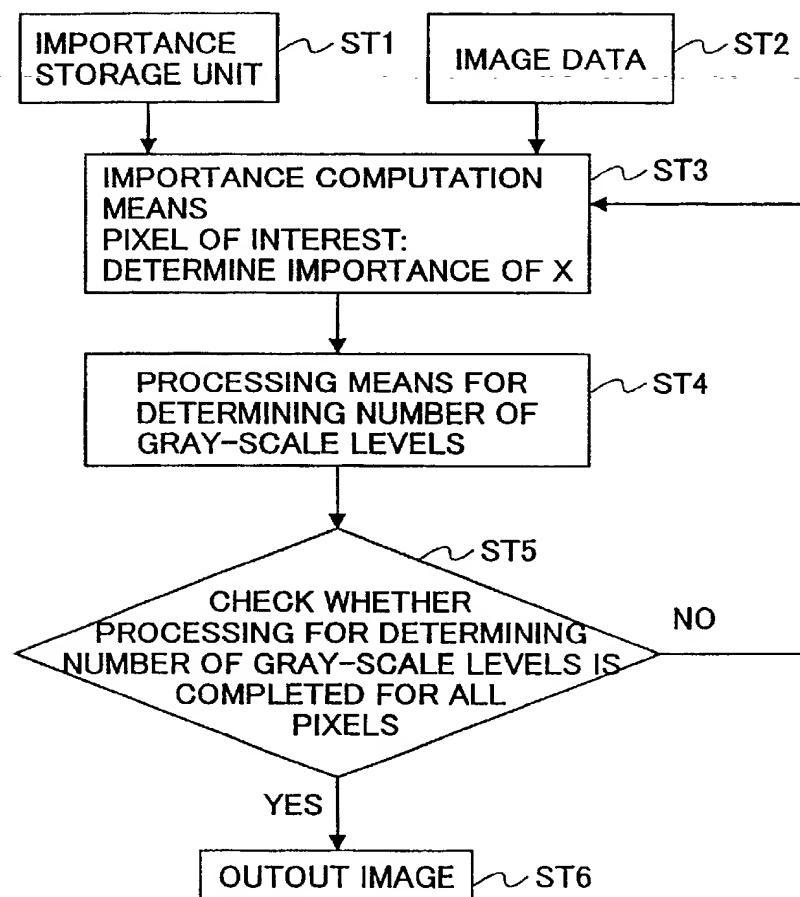
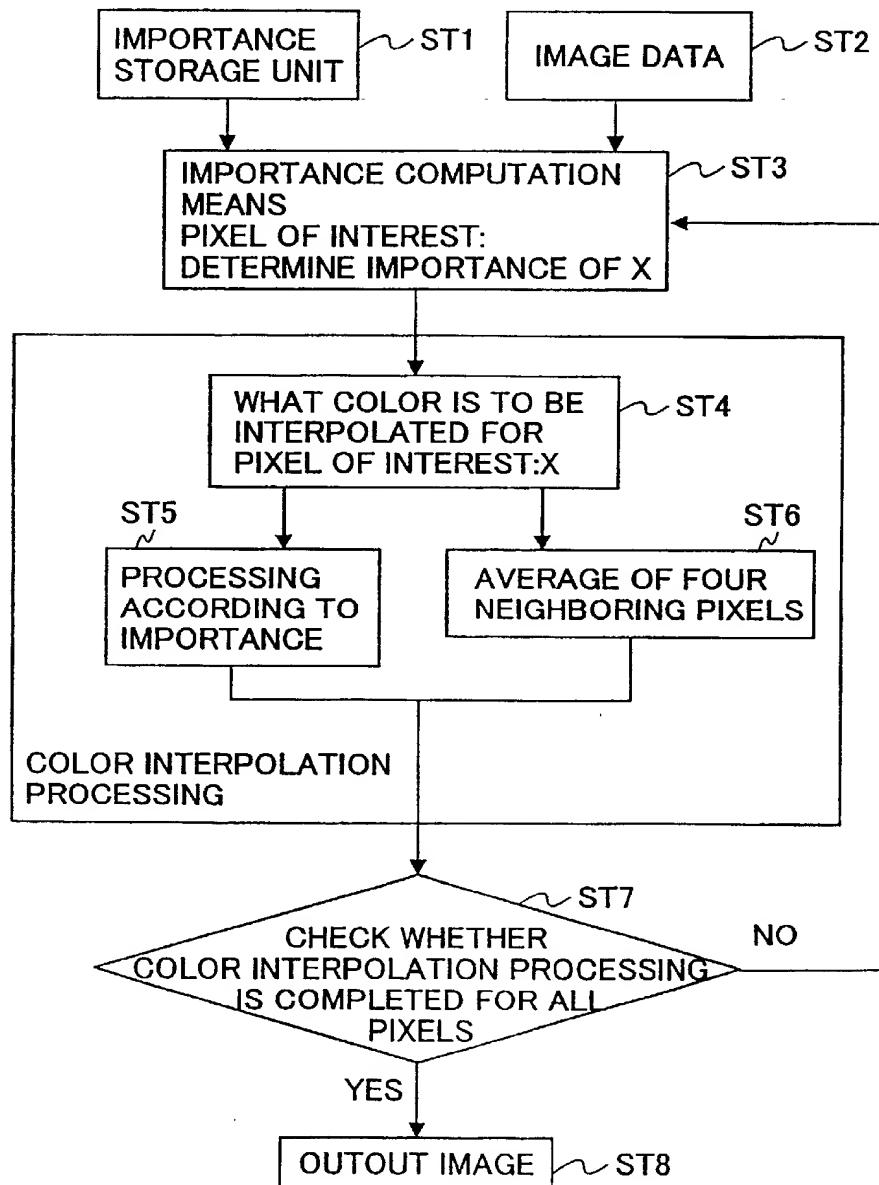


FIG.16

FLOWCHART SHOWING A SECOND EMBODIMENT OF A PROCESS OF MAKING IMAGE QUALITY VARY DEPENDING ON LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE.



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SERIAL NO: 09/726,559
INV: Yuki Matsushima
DOCKET # 200321US-2
SHEET 12 OF 15

FIG.17

DRAWING SHOWING A CONFIGURATION OF A COLOR FILTER IN THE CASE OF A CAMERA DEVICE BEING A PRIMARY COLOR ARRAY CCD.

G	B	G	B	G
R	G	R	G	R
G	B	G	B	G
R	G	R	G	R
G	B	G	B	G

FIG.18

DRAWING SHOWING THE PIXCEL OF INTEREST AND FOUR NEIGHBORING PIXELS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLOR INTERPOLATION PROCESSING.

	a	
b	X	c
	d	

FIG.19

DRAWING SHOWING AN EXAMPLE OF A WIDE AREA OF INTERPOLATION REFERENCE THAT CORRESPONDS TO THE CASE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

	e		h	
i		a		l
	b	x	c	
j		d		k
	f		g	

FIG.20

FLOWCHART SHOWING A THIRD EMBODIMENT OF A PROCESS OF MAKING IMAGE QUALITY VARY DEPENDING ON LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE.

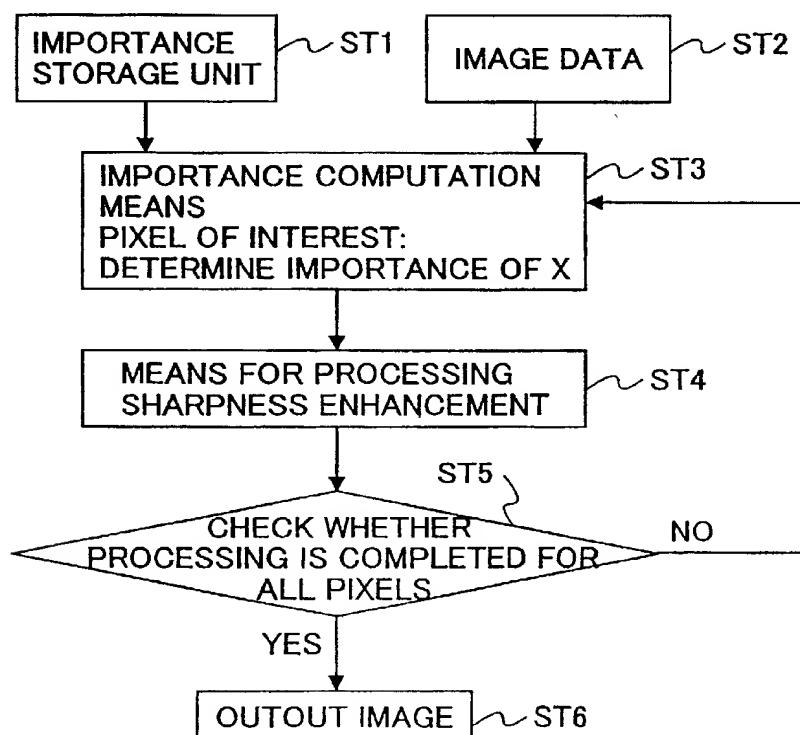


FIG.21

DRAWING SHOWING THE PIXEL OF INTEREST AND NEIGHBORING PIXELS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SHARPNESS ENHANCEMENT PROCESSING.

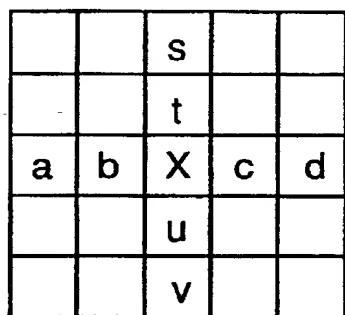
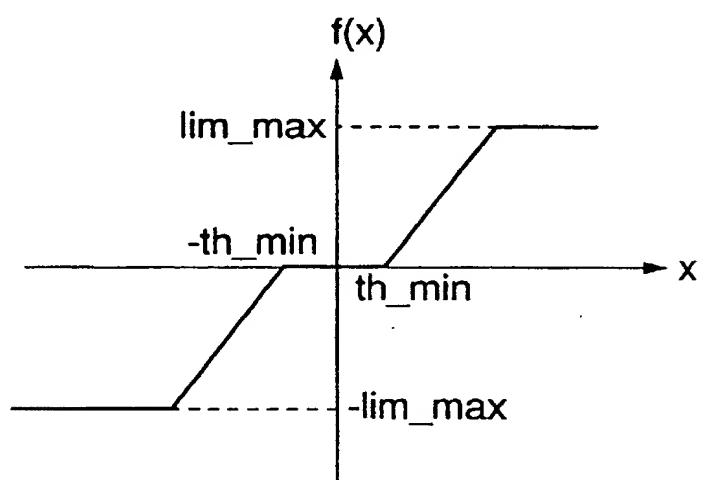


FIG.22

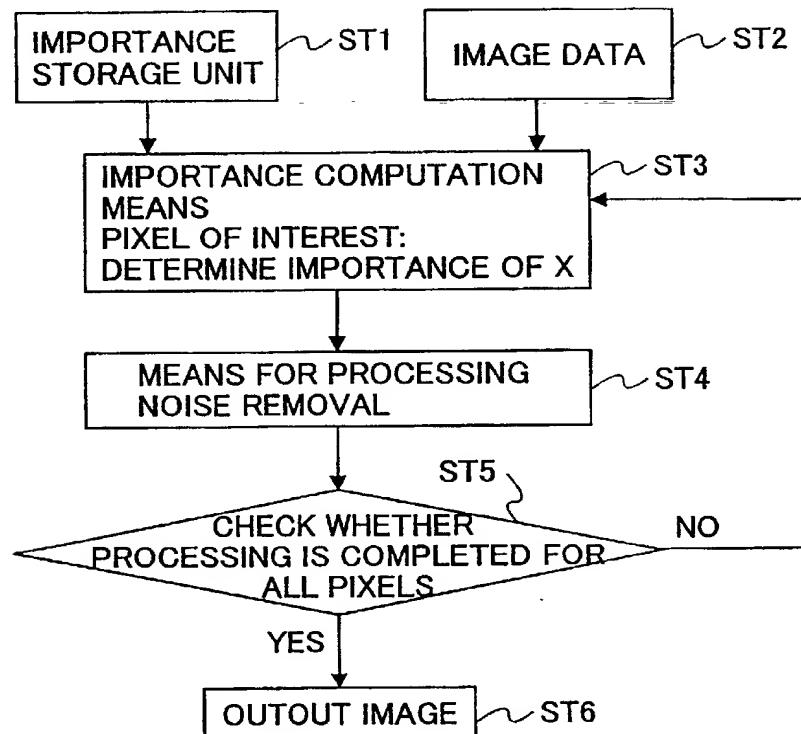
DRAWING SHOWING A NON-LINEAR TRANSFORMATION APPLIED TO LAPLACIAN OPERATION.



SERIAL NO: 09/726,559
INV: Yuki Matsushima
DOCKET # 200321US-2
SHEET 15 OF 15

FIG.23

FLOWCHART SHOWING A FOURTH EMBODIMENT OF A PROCESS OF MAKING IMAGE QUALITY VARY DEPENDING ON LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE.



09/726,559 - 03214